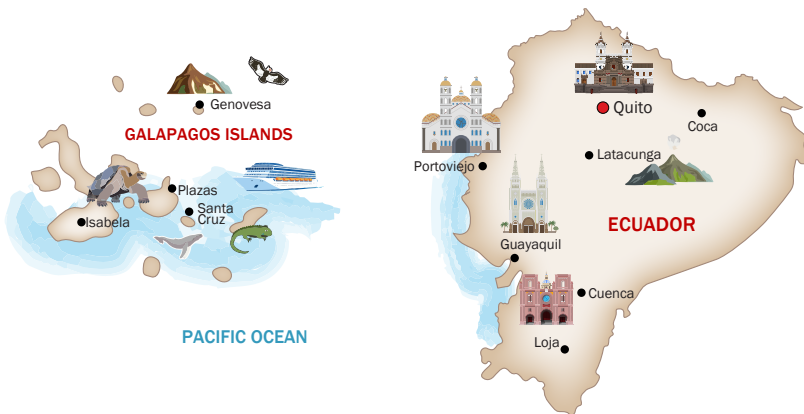




ECUADOR & THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

WHERE NATURE AND EVOLUTION COME ALIVE



Ecuador is a country of extraordinary diversity, where four distinct worlds, the Andes, the Amazon, the Pacific Coast, and the Galápagos Islands, exist within one compact nation. Located on the equator in northwestern South America, Ecuador blends ancient civilizations, colonial heritage, and some of the richest biodiversity on Earth. From historic cities nestled in volcanic highlands to remote islands that reshaped our understanding of life itself, Ecuador offers a journey filled with wonder, culture, and discovery.

The climate varies by region, allowing for year-round travel. The Andean highlands enjoy mild spring-like weather, the Amazon remains lush and tropical, and the Galápagos Islands offer warm days and refreshing ocean breezes throughout the year. Whether exploring cloud forests or snorkeling alongside sea lions, Ecuador invites travelers into a world where nature takes center stage.

Nowhere else can you experience such a concentration of ecosystems and wildlife in one destination. Ecuador is not just a place to visit, it is a living classroom of nature, culture, and adventure.



CAPITAL
Quito



AREA
109,484 SQ MI



CURRENCY
US Dollar



LANGUAGE
Spanish

ICONIC ECUADOR & GALÁPAGOS LANDMARKS



QUITO HISTORIC CENTER

Quito's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the best-preserved colonial centers in Latin America. Wander cobblestone streets lined with whitewashed buildings, ornate balconies, and golden-domed churches. Highlights include La Compañía de Jesús, famed for its intricate gold-leaf interior, and Plaza Grande, the political and cultural heart of the city. Surrounded by dramatic Andean peaks, Quito seamlessly blends centuries of history with vibrant modern life.

MITAD DEL MUNDO (MIDDLE OF THE WORLD)

Just north of Quito lies the equatorial line dividing the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. At the Middle of the World monument, visitors can stand with one foot in each hemisphere while learning about indigenous astronomy and geography. Interactive museums demonstrate the unique physical phenomena associated with the equator, making this both an educational and symbolic stop on any Ecuador journey.



THE ANDES & AVENUE OF THE VOLCANOES

Ecuador's Andes are punctuated by towering volcanoes, fertile valleys, and traditional highland villages. Along the famed Avenue of the Volcanoes, snow-capped peaks such as Cotopaxi rise dramatically above rolling plains. Visitors can hike through national parks, explore indigenous markets, or enjoy scenic drives through landscapes shaped by fire and time.

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Located nearly 600 miles off Ecuador's coast, the Galápagos Islands are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most biologically unique places on Earth. This volcanic archipelago is home to species found nowhere else, including giant tortoises, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, and Darwin's finches. The islands' isolation allowed life to evolve in remarkable ways, inspiring Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

Explore the Galápagos by cruise or island-hopping, snorkeling in crystal-clear waters alongside sea turtles, rays, and playful sea lions. Volcanic landscapes, pristine beaches, and protected marine reserves make the Galápagos a once-in-a-lifetime experience for nature lovers and explorers alike.

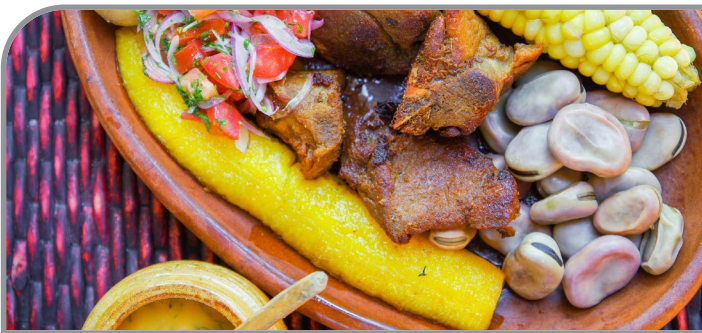


MORE TO KNOW ABOUT ECUADOR & THE GALÁPAGOS



ART, MUSIC & CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Ecuador's artistic spirit is evident in its colorful murals, traditional music, and vibrant festivals. Local artists draw inspiration from nature, history, and daily life, creating works that reflect the soul of the country. From street art in cities to handcrafted performances in rural communities, creativity is an essential part of Ecuadorian culture.



HOSPITALITY & WAY OF LIFE

Ecuadorians are known for their friendliness and pride in their country's natural and cultural riches. Visitors are often greeted with genuine warmth, whether in bustling cities or remote villages. Life moves at a relaxed pace, encouraging travelers to slow down, savor the moment, and appreciate the beauty of their surroundings.



WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

Despite its small size, Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. From hummingbirds and orchids in the cloud forests to pink river dolphins in the Amazon, life thrives in astonishing variety. The Galápagos Islands represent the pinnacle of conservation, where strict protections preserve fragile ecosystems and allow wildlife to coexist with visitors in extraordinary proximity.



ECUADORIAN CUISINE

Ecuadorian cuisine reflects the country's regional diversity. In the highlands, hearty dishes feature potatoes, corn, and slow-cooked meats. Along the coast, fresh seafood and ceviche take center stage, while the Amazon offers unique flavors drawn from the rainforest. Meals are often simple, fresh, and deeply connected to local traditions, enjoyed with warm hospitality.



HANDMADE CRAFTS & SOUVENIRS

Ecuador is renowned for its rich tradition of handcrafted goods, created by skilled artisans using techniques passed down through generations. In local markets and villages, travelers will find handwoven textiles, colorful ponchos, alpaca scarves, embroidered garments, and finely crafted jewelry. Indigenous crafts often feature natural dyes and symbolic patterns inspired by Andean and Amazonian heritage. In the Galápagos and mainland regions alike, souvenirs often reflect Ecuador's deep connection to nature, including carved wood pieces, ceramics, and artwork depicting wildlife and landscapes. Purchasing handmade crafts not only provides meaningful keepsakes but also directly supports local communities and preserves traditional artistry.

OUR TRAVEL IDEAS

Discover the world with Central Holidays, where travel becomes art

Choose from meticulously curated escorted tours with set departures or indulge in bespoke travel experiences crafted around your individual interests. Whether your passion lies in ancient history, serene beaches, gourmet cuisine, or vibrant cultures, our journeys are designed to inspire and delight. From celebrated landmarks to secret corners of the globe, explore with elegance, depth, and purpose.



7
DAYS

BEST OF ECUADOR & THE GALAPAGOS

QUITO | GALAPAGOS ISLAND | GUAYAQUIL

What's the best way to see Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands? How about enjoying the best of both worlds, exploring by land and sea! On this thrilling Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands vacation package, the opportunities to enjoy this fascinating part of the world are virtually unlimited! Come explore Ecuador's cities of Quito and Guayaquil plus off-the beaten path gems of Otavalo, Peguche & Cuicocha.

QUITO & THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

QUITO | GALAPAGOS ISLAND

This unforgettable 7-day land and cruise journey combines the cultural charm of Quito with the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands. Nestled among the Andes, Quito is the world's second-highest capital and boasts a beautifully preserved colonial center, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Discover its rich history, vibrant museums, and stunning churches.

7
DAYS



7
DAYS

FROM THE CLOUDS TO THE AMAZON

QUITO | COCA

Discover the cultural treasures of Quito and the natural wonders of the Amazon on this immersive multi-day journey. Begin in Ecuador's historic capital, exploring its beautifully preserved colonial architecture, iconic churches, and vibrant plazas. Stand at the famed Middle of the World before flying deep into the Amazon Basin, where your rainforest adventure begins.



4
DAYS

CRUISING THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

GALAPAGOS ISLAND

Travel to Ecuador and have a cruise adventure in the Galapagos Islands. Your cruise trip to the Galapagos Islands sails aboard the Legend, with a maximum of one hundred passengers. You will enjoy exclusive service and personalized attention, as you indulge in the gorgeous views from any of the outer decks, and enroll in one of the countless activities in the social areas.

